

To whom it may concern,

This is my testimony pertaining to your bill and the crumbling concrete problem in general.

My foundation was poured by JJ Mottes in May 1995. I was standing there with John Soucy, the contractor I hired to put in my foundation, while the Mottes truck was pouring the concrete. I've been reminded of that day every time I passed a Mottes mixer on the road ever since.

I learned of the problem of crumbling foundations in the July 25-26, 2015 edition of the Journal Inquirer.

I had noticed a large crack in one corner of my foundation a few years earlier, but I attributed it to settling. I considered patching it. Once I read the article I inspected my foundation more closely and noticed areas where there were numerous spider cracks thru my foundation walls, and one area where a chunk of concrete had fallen to the floor.

I contacted Senator Tony Guglielmo and Representative Sam Belsito and asked for advise. I filed a statement with the CT Dept of Consumer Protection on September 17th.

My foundation seemed sound, so the course of action I decided on after filing the statement with DCP was to stay abreast of the situation in the media. My foundation was not, in my opinion, unsafe.

I attended the meeting if concerned citizens in Stafford on January 21. This was where I learned that insurance companies are doing everything they can to avoid the situation, including litigation until the homeowner runs out of money and has to drop the claim. I also learned that they can deny my claim if I don't notify them that I have a problem within one year of learning about it.

Since that time I have had my town building inspector look at my foundation. His opinion is that the cracks in my foundation are indicative of the pyrrhotite problem and suggested that I contact a structural engineer. I contacted Fuss and O'neil and was told that they don't deal with individual homeowners, and that taking and testing core samples of a foundation will cost around \$8,000. I don't have \$8,000.

We are trying to figure out what to do next. We have reviewed our insurance policy and it seems contradictory in how it covers the use of faulty materials. I have not contacted them yet.

I am actively trying to secure a lawyer and engineer who will properly represent me in this unfortunate circumstance.

I don't know where this road will lead me.

Regarding the bill that you are proposing, I don't see any value in it.

This problem has occurred twice in North America. Once in Quebec and once in Willington. That's it. All foundations that are affected in the United States were poured have been traced to JJ Mottes. THis legislature indicates that your intent is to allow Mottes to continue to pour concrete made from aggregate from the contaminated pit because your bill is only going to

protect the people who have not had their foundations poured yet. Would it not make more sense to address the **problem**? Shut the pit down and the problem goes away.

I learned at the January 21 meeting that there have been documented cases of this dating back to the 80's. Why was this pit not shut down then? There is gross negligence here someplace. I had my foundation poured by a licensed, insured contractor (John Soucy) who purchased concrete from a licensed, insured provider (JJ Mottes) and everything was done under the watchful eye of the town building inspector. I'm at a loss to understand why 1) Mottes is still pouring concrete (I saw a Mottes truck on the UCONN campus a couple months ago. The name had been removed but it still sported the blue starburst. I took a picture) and 2) Why Mottes is not liable for the faulty foundations that he poured. Shouldn't the state be pursuing shutting down and getting remediation from JJ Mottes?

Again, I feel your proposed bill does absolutely nothing. It solves a future problem that shouldn't exist. The only way that this bill will provide value to anybody or anything is if JJ Mottes is allowed to continue to pour concrete contaminated with pyrrhotite.

As for my problem, I was looking forward to being mortgage free for the first time in 30 years in August 2018. Now I'm being told that, due to no fault of my own, I will have the privilege of facing a \$200,000 bill to fix a problem that shouldn't exist. What do we have insurance for? What do we have FEMA for? A real estate agent friend of mine has told me that it would be impossible to sell my house. I'm 60 years old. The equity that I have worked a lifetime to build in my house is now gone. It is basically not even worth the property it is built on because that property has a house needing a \$200,000 repair on it. At 60 years old I'm at the end of my career. I don't have 30 years that I can work to pay off another mortgage. I already did that. I do not have \$200,000 in retirement savings. This bill would essentially wipe me out. Once my house, which I have already paid for once, is fixed I would have to sell it or possibly file for bankruptcy. But my savings would be drained and the retirement that I've worked for my entire life would go up in smoke.

You asked how this affects me. Simply put, it will wipe me out. I will lose everything I have worked for my entire life.

It is late and I have to work tomorrow. Due to negligible lead time to prepare this testimony I can't proof read and wordsmith it. I apologize if it rambles, but I have not been granted time to prepare a proper document. And I can't get tomorrow off to attend the session. I would need a couple weeks lead time.

Bob Swanson